IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1   1.   (Twice Amended) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a

2   fleet of vehicles, comprising:

3   a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations

4   relative to each other;

5   a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality

6   of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from

7   the fleet; and

8   a computer system coupled for communication with said

9   plurality of user interface terminals and

10   programmed for:

11   in response to a user request received at a first

12   port, defining a first vehicle search group

13   (VSG) of the first port;

14   in response to at least one vehicle in the first

15   VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the

16   user request;

17   in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,

18   defining a second VSG of a second port;

19   in response to at least one vehicle in the second

20   VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for

21   allocating to the user request; and

22   in response to selecting a vehicle from the second

23   VSG, generating a relocation request of the

24   selected vehicle from the second port to the
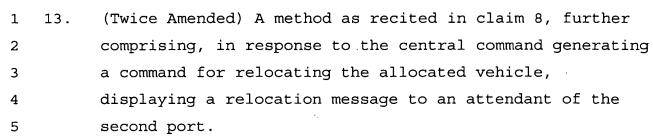
25   first port.

1 8. (Twice Amended) A method for sharing a fleet of vehicles,

2 comprising:

3 providing a plurality of interface terminals at a

4   plurality of ports at geographically remote

5   locations relative to each other;

6 receiving a request for a vehicle from the fleet from a

7   user at an interface terminal of a first port;

8 transmitting the request to a central computer; and

9 executing a vehicle allocation program at the central

10   computer to perform:

11   defining a first vehicle search group (VSG) for the

12   first port and a second VSG for a second

13   port;

14   allocating to the request a vehicle from the first

15   VSG in response to a suitable vehicle present

16   in the first VSG;

17   allocating to the request a vehicle from the second

18   VSG in response to no suitable vehicle

19   present in the first VSG; and

20   generating a command for relocating the allocated

21   vehicle from the second port to the first

22   port in response to allocating a vehicle from

23   the second VSG.

1 10. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein

2 the step of defining a first VSG further includes

3 including vehicles due to arrive at the first port within

4 a preset time period in the first VSG.

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1   11.   (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, further
2   comprising, in response to the central command generating
3   a command for relocating the allocated vehicle:
4   connecting a first end of a tow bar to a trailer hitch of
5   a first vehicle and a second end of the tow bar to
6   a trailer hitch of a second vehicle; and
7   towing the second vehicle with the first vehicle.

1   12.   (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, further
2   comprising, in response to the central command generating
3   a command for relocating the allocated vehicle:
4   connecting a carrier bracket to a carrier hitch
5   receptacle of a first vehicle; and
6   carrying a second vehicle on the carrier bracket.

1   13.   (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, further
2   comprising, in response to the central command generating
3   a command for relocating the allocated vehicle,
4   displaying a relocation message to an attendant of the
5   second port.

1   14.   (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein
2   executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3   computer further includes defining the second VSG
4   different than the first VSG.

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1 15. (Twice Amended) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a
2   fleet of vehicles, comprising:
3   a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations
4   relative to each other;
5   a computer system in communication with said plurality of
6   ports and programmed to defining a search depth
7   vehicle search group (VSG) for each port in which
8   one or more available vehicles from the fleet may
9   be located at any given time for possible
10   allocation to a user at the port, determine a
11   number of vehicles in a first search depth VSG of a
12   first port and, in responses thereto, to determine
13   whether additional vehicles should be relocated to
14   the first port; and
15   means for relocating one or more vehicles from a second
16   port to the first port, upon a determination by
17   said computer system that additional vehicles
18   should be relocated to the first port.

1 21. (Twice Amended) A method for sharing a fleet of vehicles

2   among one or more users, comprising:

3   providing a plurality of ports at geographically remote

4   locations relative to each other;

5   providing a central computer in communication with the

6   plurality of ports;

7   executing a vehicle allocation program at the central

8   computer to perform:

9   defining a first vehicle search group (VSG) for a

10   first port, in which one or more vehicles

11   from the fleet may be located at any given

12   time, and a second VSG for a second port, in

13   which one or more vehicles from the fleet may

14   be located at any given time;

15   determining a number of available vehicles in the

16   first VSG; and

17   based on the number of available vehicles in the

18   first VSG, determining whether additional

19   vehicles should be relocated to the first

20   port; and

21   relocating one or more vehicles from the second port to

22   the first port, upon a determination by the central

23   computer that additional vehicles should be

24   relocated to the first port.

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1 22. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein
2   executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3   computer further comprises:
4   detecting a location of each vehicle in the fleet;
5   transmitting the location of each vehicle to the central
6   computer; and
7   determining a number of vehicles within a designated area
8   with respect to the first port.

1 23. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein
2   executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3   computer further comprises determining whether the number
4   of vehicles within the designated area is below a preset
5   value.

1 24. (Twice Amended) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein
2   executing a vehicle allocation program at the central
3   computer further comprises determining whether the number
4   of available vehicles in the first VSG is below a preset
5   value.

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Please add following new claims to the subject application.

1   27.   (New) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a fleet of

2   vehicles, comprising:

3   a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations

4   relative to each other;

5   a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality

6   of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from

7   the fleet;

8   a computer system coupled for communication with said

9   plurality of user interface terminals and

10   programmed for:

11   in response to a user request received at a first

12   port, defining a first vehicle search group

13   (VSG) of the first port;

14   in response to at least one vehicle in the first

15   VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the

16   user request;

17   in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,

18   defining a second VSG of a second port;

19   in response to at least one vehicle in the second

20   VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for

21   allocating to the user request; and

22   in response to selecting a vehicle from the second

23   VSG, generating a relocation request of the

24   selected vehicle from the second port to the

25   first port; and

26   a vehicle transport device for transporting one or more

27   vehicles from one port to another port, wherein:

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28   at least one vehicle in the fleet includes a tow

29   hitch receptacle; and

30   said vehicle transport device comprises a tow bar

31   for coupling to a tow hitch receptacle and

32   connecting two vehicles together.

1   28.   (New) The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said

2   computer system is further programmed for including in

3   the first VSG vehicles due to arrive at the first port

4   within a preset time period.

1   29.   (New) A vehicle sharing system for sharing a fleet of

2   vehicles, comprising:

3   a plurality of ports at geographically remote locations

4   relative to each other;

5   a plurality of user interface terminals at said plurality

6   of ports for receiving requests for vehicles from

7   the fleet;

8   a computer system coupled for communication with said

9   plurality of user interface terminals and

10   programmed for:

11   in response to a user request received at a first

12   port, defining a first vehicle search group

13   (VSG) of the first port;

14   in response to at least one vehicle in the first

15   VSG, allocating a vehicle therefrom to the

16   user request;

17   in response to no vehicle in the first VSG,

18   defining a second VSG of a second port;

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19   in response to at least one vehicle in the second

20   VSG, selecting a vehicle therefrom for

21   allocating to the user request; and

22   in response to selecting a vehicle from the second

23   VSG, generating a relocation request of the

24   selected vehicle from the second port to the

25   first port; and

26   a vehicle transport device for transporting one or more

27   vehicles from one port to another port, wherein:

28   at least one vehicle in the fleet includes a

29   carrier hitch receptacle; and

30   said vehicle transport device comprises a carrier

31   bracket connectable to the said carrier hitch

32   receptacle of one vehicle, for carrying a

33   second vehicle.

1   30. (New) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein:

2   said carrier bracket comprises a cycle carrier bracket

3   for carrying a cycle; and

4   said second vehicle comprises a cycle.